(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Proselytisation Activities of Christian Missionaries

5418. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the R.S.S. has urged the Union Government to expel foreign Christian Missionaries from the North-East areas found indulging in proselytising activities; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The factual information in this regard is being obtained.

[Translation]

Retrenchment in H.C.L.

5419. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Hindustan Copper Limited, Musabani, Jamshedpur is resorting to large scale retrenchment of its workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the company has sought permission for mining in other surrounding areas to mine the copper;

(d) whether the Government propose to give this contract to some other private company;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government are aware that, if the above said contract is given to some new private company, then the chances of retrenchment would become real; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has not retrenched any worker so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Hindustan Copper Limited plans to mine Chapri-Sidheswar deposit on joint venture basis. The State Government has agreed to renew mining lease of the present operational areas of Hindustan Copper Limited only. This issue at present is sub-judice.

(d) to (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Deffered Plans by Sugar Mills

5420. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether 70 companies having licence for sugar mills have deferred plans to set up new projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The Ministry of Food has not been intimated by any company that it would not like to utilise its licence.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Air India's Bank Guarantee

5421. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether cash flow of Air India has not been satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether U.S. Exim Bank has declined to accept a bank guarantee of hundreds of million dollars line of credit in case of Air India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Resource generation in Air India Ltd. declined during 1995-96 due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yields, increased landing handling and navigational charges, agitation by engineers, depreciation of rupee value etc.

(c) to (e) Air India has negotiated with US Exim Bank for asset-based financing for the first time. The US Exim Bank has shown its willingness to extend loan facility subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.